

early intervention through Part C (Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program) of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). My legislation seeks to increase funding in Part C so that children with autism can obtain more than two hours of early intervention a week. Two hours a week of early intervention is not nearly enough time to help children with autism learn and grow. This legislation will allow children to benefit from more intervention as increased time will encourage them to become more familiar with the techniques taught to them.

Another provision in this bill will address the lack of specially trained professors to educate autistic children by increasing funding in Part D (the National Activities programs) of OSEP. Increasing funding at OSEP will provide federal grants to states to help them rigorously prepare teachers for educating children with autism. The program will provide both advanced education training for current special education teachers and introductory through advanced education training for future special education teachers. In addition, tax credit incentives will be provided for those who receive training in autism.

Finally, my legislation will help children with autism make the transition to work. The bill will require the Department of Labor to conduct a comprehensive review of existing vocational training programs to assess whether they are adequately serving the needs of disabled persons, particularly those persons with autism. The Department of Labor will then establish an annual report to Congress in which each department lists what measures it is taking to make their training programs more accessible and more effective in helping autistic adults make the transition to part time or full time employment. The Department of Labor should also include a list of legislative recommendations to Congress for making improvements in ways to make the transition to work for disabled persons easier.

As you may know, there is limited information on the prevalence, cause, or treatment of autism. In order to unlock the mysteries of autism, the members of C.A.R.E. are working to increase funding levels for programs focusing on autism spectrum disorders so that our nation can pursue several emerging scientific opportunities.

First, we requested a \$20 million increase at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 to bring total funding to \$78.7 million. Eleven million dollars of these additional funds will be designated to the network of 10 existing research programs, the Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism (CPEAs). Six million dollars will be used to begin implementation of the additional "Centers of Excellence" specified in the Children's Health Act (P.L. 106-310). An additional \$3 million dollars will be used to fund basic biomedical research and begin awarding training and education grants to professionals who provide care for patients with autism also authorized by P.L. 106-310.

Second, we asked for a \$5 million dollar increase at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for FY 2002. These additional funds would be used to implement the "Centers of Excellence in Autism Epidemiology" specified in P.L. 106-310. This is a program I authored, which was included as Title I of P.L. 106-310. Furthermore, funding will go towards awarding grants and assistance to states which want to establish their own autism surveillance programs. This funding is essential as the CDC must collect data from approximately 30 states before it can move forward with a comprehensive analysis of trends that may reveal correlative factors, potential causes, and hopefully effective treatments and cures for autism.

C.A.R.E. has been involved in other autism initiatives as well. On March 29, C.A.R.E. introduced H. Con. Res. 91, which calls upon Congress to support April as Autism Awareness Month and today as Autism Awareness Day. The resolution also commends the parents and relatives of autistic children for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of their autistic children. In addition, H. Con. Res. 91 endorses the goals of increasing federal funding for aggressive research to learn the root causes of autism.

The Second Annual Autism Rally that is being held today in Washington is a prime example of how important citizen participation in our democratic process is. There are no more eloquent and powerful advocates for autism research and education than the parents of those who must love and care for their autistic child each and every day. We are deeply indebted to the parents and families who care for autistic children. Without you, these children would be hopelessly lost. It is my hope that the federal government can help provide you with its tools you need to continue your excellent work.

#### TRIBUTE TO EL CAMINO HIGH NATIONAL ACADEMIC DECATHLON CHAMPIONS

#### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2001*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to academic excellence, and in particular, the achievements of the El Camino Real High School Academic Decathlon Team which won the national championship this past weekend.

Too often, learning and knowledge are expected, but achievements in the academic field often are not rewarded or recognized in the same way as success on the athletic field.

Nine seniors from El Camino High traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, and competed with nearly 500 high school students from 39 states in a broad array of categories and types

of tests. The scholars were quizzed on art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music and science, with speech, essay, interview and quiz formats.

Decathletes Alan Wittenberg, Aria Haghighi, Samantha Henry, Elan Bar, Walter Ching, Grace Giles, Dennis Kuo, Scott Lulovics and Ryan Ruby represented their school and state with honor and pride.

Though this was the second national championship for El Camino in the decathlon in just four years, this also was the closest competition in the two decades of the event. James E. Taylor High School of Texas, the 2000 U.S. Academic Decathlon champions, finished just 21 points behind El Camino in a competition that included 60,000 possible points per team.

All the more admirable is that this competition is not just for the A-students. The nine person teams are made up of A, B and C students equally. Such inclusion encourages academic achievement across the spectrum of grades and abilities.

The 2001 El Camino team joins previous San Fernando Valley teams in the national spotlight. In 1998 El Camino had won the championship and Taft High School also won the national championship in 1993 and 1988.

I would like to recognize not only the achievements of the nine champions from El Camino, but all of the competitors from around the country. Those students should be commended for their time, dedication and determination in their pursuit of academic success.

For example, the El Camino team from Woodland Hills spent more than 1,000 hours preparing for the city, state and national decathlons. Though they scored third highest nationwide coming

As is necessary for academic success, the El Camino team was supported by caring, involved individuals, including Principal Ron Bauer, Assistant Principal for Student Counseling Connie Semf, Head Coaches Melinda Owen and Christian Cerone, and Coaches Mark Johnson, Dave Roberson, Jerry Hickman, Lilian Ruben and Becky Gessert, as well as many other teachers and the students' parents. Without the support of parents and faculty, the struggle for academic success is far greater, and for some impossible.

The support of the students was apparent on Saturday, with 30 fans in the audience, including Principal Bauer, administrators from the Los Angeles Unified School District, two former Academic Decathlon coaches and parents in matching T-shirts in the school's blue and gold.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about the need to foster academic achievement, we must recognize and reward those who strive academically, just as we honor those who compete on the field. If we want our children to value education, then we must show our appreciation for knowledge. It is for this reason I recognize the stellar accomplishments of the El Camino Real High team.

*April 27, 2001*

CONGRATULATING THE JEWISH  
JOURNAL/NORTH OF BOSTON ON  
ITS 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2001*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2001, the Jewish Journal/North of Boston will celebrate its 25th year of publication. For a quarter century, the Jewish Journal has been the principal source of community news and information for the Jewish population of the communities that lie between Boston on the New Hampshire border, most of which are within the Sixth Congressional District.

As a community-sponsored publication, managed by a Board of Overseers representing the diverse points of view of the entire community, the Jewish Journal keeps its readers well informed of Jewish concerns—local, national and international—while offering a forum for a lively exchange of ideas. The newspaper's independence from any chain or large corporate entity ensures its journalistic integrity and guarantees that its readers receive unbiased consideration of all the issues.

I want to add my congratulations and best wishes to the management and staff of the Jewish Journal/North of Boston on reaching this important milestone and commend them for the invaluable service they provide for thousands of Jewish families in our area.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 15th anniversary of one of the most terrible nuclear disasters in world history: the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion.

On April 26, 1986, Reactor Number Four at the Soviet-designed Chernobyl nuclear facility exploded, releasing more than 100 tons of lethally radioactive material into the environment. At the time, the only response available to Ukraine was to create an Exclusion Zone covering over 1000 square miles immediately surrounding the nuclear plant, and to quarantine an area downwind of the plant covering over 20,000 square miles. We may never know how many lost lives can be directly attributed to Chernobyl, but the death toll can be measured in the thousands. Hundreds of thousands more were subjected to radiation poisoning.

Today, 15 years later, the consequences of this tragedy continue to be felt. Cancer rates among the survivors have skyrocketed. Contaminants in the groundwater sicken those in the quarantined area and threaten even greater numbers of people as the water travels downstream to urban areas. The loss of Chernobyl's generating power has caused the loss of jobs and has spurred a crippling energy shortage. By some estimates, the total direct cost to Ukraine has exceeded \$100 billion over the past 15 years.

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On December 15, 2000, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was shut down for good, ending a tragic chapter in Ukraine's history and beginning a new one. Clearly, the heavy burden for the people of Ukraine does not end with the shutdown, and the international community must do more to help remediate the damage. The U.S. has joined international experts in proposing ways to accelerate decontamination of the area and make the land economically viable, at the same time addressing Ukraine's energy needs. Congress needs to work with the new Administration to build upon the progress that was made with the previous Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I call on every member of the House to join me in remembering the victims of this tragedy. Let us resolve to do our part to help Ukraine build a brighter future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2001*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, I inadvertently voted "yes" on final passage of H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, when it was my strong intent to vote "no" on the bill. I feel that the best way to protect the fetus is to better protect the woman, and because this legislation fails to address the need for legislation to prevent and punish violence against women, I would not support this or any similar bill.